

DOCKET NO. BUR920040103US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Johnson *et al.*

Examiner: Kik, Phallaka

Serial No.: 10/710,733

Art Unit: 2825

Filing Date: 7/30/2004

Title: **INCORPORATION OF UNCERTAINTY INFORMATION IN MODELING A CHARACTERISTIC OF A DEVICE**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESTRICTION ELECTION

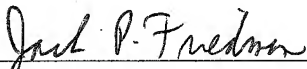
In response to the Restriction Requirement dated July 6, 2006, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-13, 30-33 and 40-48, drawn to method/computer program product/model for modeling a characteristic C that is distributed within a domain, classified in Class 716, subclass 4. This election is made with traverse, and Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application in connection with unelected claims 14-29, 34-39 and 49-59, drawn to method/computer program product/model for modeling a characteristic C having J subcharacteristics, that is distributed within a domain.

With regard to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-59 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and the examination of the

entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP § 803, in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits." Applicants respectfully submit that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Should the Examiner require or request anything further from Applicants prior to examination, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below. Otherwise, Applicants request early and favorable examination on the merits. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. 09-0456.

Date: 07/31/2006



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